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2008

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

English (Précis & Composition)

Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Posts in BPS-17
Under the Federal Government — 2008

Paper: English (Précis & Composition)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 100

Status: Fully Solved — Complete Model Answers

★ Fully Solved Reference Edition ★

Write a précis of the following passage in about 100 words and suggest the title.

Objectives pursued by organizations should be directed to the satisfaction of demands resulting from the wants of mankind... (as given in the original passage on organizational objectives, efficiency, and the growth of managerial hierarchy).

SUGGESTED TITLE

Organizational Objectives and Efficiency

MODEL PRÉCIS (≈100 WORDS)

Organizations exist to create and exchange utility, so their objectives must reflect people's genuine wants, which are ascertained through market studies, surveys and traffic counts. Before industrialization, small, owner-managed enterprises pursued simple goals under a single decision-maker; growing technology and scale later made a hierarchy of objectives, and consequently of decision-makers, essential. Organizational efficiency is the ratio of utility received to utility contributed, judged subjectively by each participant. Management's central task is therefore to define objectives and coordinate activity toward them, sustaining the cooperative system only when every contributor, including the manager, gains more than he gives.

Q.2 — Comprehension Passage

25

Read the passage carefully and answer all the questions given at the end.

These phenomena, however, are merely premonitions of a coming storm... (Allama Iqbal's Allahabad Address, 1930 — passage on political civilization, the idealism of faith, and the Indian Muslim's need for inner transformation).

i. What is the chief characteristic of the modern political civilization?

(4)

Its chief characteristic is that it treats man merely as a thing to be exploited for material gain, rather than as a personality to be nurtured and enlarged through genuine cultural and spiritual forces. It is built on an acquisitive economy and an undisciplined individualism that the West has imposed on the East.

ii. What are the possibilities of our Faith, which can be of advantage to the world?

(4)

The Faith recognises the worth of the individual while disciplining him to dedicate himself to the service of God and man. It holds the potential to build a new world order where social rank depends on the quality of one's life rather than caste, colour or wealth; where society rests on the equality of spirits, not of stomachs; and where private ownership is treated as a trust so that capital can never be allowed to dominate the true producers of wealth.

iii. What is the chief danger confronting the superb idealism of our Faith?

(4)

The chief danger is that this idealism remains trapped by outdated, rigid interpretations handed down by medieval theologians and jurists. Centuries of accumulated dogma have imprisoned people's thoughts and emotions, so the Faith's living, progressive spirit needs to be freed from this inherited spiritual confinement.

iv. Why is the Indian Muslim in danger of coming to an unmanly compromise with the forces opposing him?

(4)

Because he has long stopped exploring the depths of his own inner life, he has lost touch with the full vigour and richness of living. As a result, he has come to wrongly believe that he cannot defeat the opposing forces in open, honest conflict, which tempts him toward a weak, unmanly compromise instead of principled resistance.

v. What is necessary for an achievement?

(2)

A firm, unwavering faith in the independence and strength of one's own inner life is essential — this alone keeps a people's vision fixed on their goal and saves them from constant wavering.

vi. Explain the expression as highlighted/underlined in the passage.

(5)

"The equality of spirits, not of stomachs" — this means a society should be founded on the moral and spiritual equality of human beings rather than on the equal distribution of material comfort alone. It values inner worth, conduct and character above wealth or physical need, so that a person's standing in society is measured by the life he lives, not by what he owns

or consumes.

vii. Suggest an appropriate title to the passage.

(2)

SUGGESTED TITLE

The Awakening of the Muslim Spirit

Q.3 — Comprehensive Note

20

Write a comprehensive note (250–300 words) on any ONE of the given topics. Model answer below is written on option (b).

TOPIC SELECTED

b. "The Child is Father of the Man"

This famous line from William Wordsworth's poem "*My Heart Leaps Up*" expresses a profound psychological and moral truth: the person we become in adulthood is largely shaped by the experiences, impressions, and habits formed in childhood. In an ordinary sense, a father precedes and shapes his child; Wordsworth reverses this relationship to show that the child, in fact, gives birth to the man — the values, temperament, and outlook absorbed in early years determine the character of the grown adult.

Childhood is the most impressionable stage of life. The wonder a child feels at a rainbow, the honesty of his instinctive reactions, and the curiosity that drives his questions all leave a lasting imprint on the mind. Psychologists today confirm what Wordsworth intuited poetically: early experiences build the neural and emotional foundations upon which adult personality is constructed. A child raised in an environment of love, discipline and encouragement tends to grow into a confident, balanced adult, whereas neglect or harsh treatment in childhood often surfaces later as insecurity or dysfunction.

The line also carries a moral dimension. Wordsworth pleads that the sense of joy, reverence and connection with nature felt in childhood should not be lost with age; rather, it should mature into the wisdom and piety of later years, so that "each day" of his life may be "bound each to each by natural piety." In this sense, the child does not merely precede the man chronologically — he is the seed from which the man's entire moral being grows.

In practical terms, the saying reminds parents, teachers and society at large of their enormous responsibility: the habits, values, and emotional security instilled in a child become the very fabric of the citizen, leader, or parent that child will one day become. Nations that invest in nurturing their children wisely are, in effect, investing in the character of their future generations.

Q.4 (a) — Idioms in Sentences

5

Blow one's top — to become suddenly and extremely angry.

➤ The manager *blew his top* when he discovered the entire shipment had been delayed without notice.

A cock and bull story — an unbelievable or far-fetched excuse.

➤ He gave the teacher a *cock and bull story* about his dog eating his homework.

Find one's feet — to become able to act confidently and independently in a new situation.

➤ It took the new intern a few weeks to *find her feet* in the fast-paced newsroom.

Call it a night — to stop an activity for the rest of the night, usually to go to sleep.

➤ After finishing the final chapter, the students decided to *call it a night*.

The tip of the iceberg — a small, visible part of a much larger, hidden problem.

➤ The reported cases of fraud were only *the tip of the iceberg*; the audit revealed far greater corruption.

Q.4 (b) — Word Pairs in Sentences

5

Mitigate — to make less severe. **Alleviate** — to make pain or suffering more bearable.

► The judge agreed to *mitigate* the sentence after hearing the circumstances; the medicine helped *alleviate* her chronic back pain.

Persecute — to treat someone cruelly because of belief or identity. **Prosecute** — to take legal action against someone.

► The regime continued to *persecute* religious minorities, while the state chose to *prosecute* the corrupt officials in open court.

Popular — liked or admired by many people. **Populace** — the general public of a place.

► The mayor remained *popular* despite criticism, but the wider *populace* grew increasingly frustrated with rising prices.

Compliment — an expression of praise. **Complement** — something that completes or goes well with another thing.

► She paid him a sincere *compliment* on his speech; the wine was a perfect *complement* to the meal.

Excite — to arouse enthusiasm or strong feeling. **Incite** — to provoke or stir someone to do something, usually violent.

► The trailer managed to *excite* the audience for the film's release, whereas the speaker's words seemed to *incite* the crowd to violence.

Q.5 (a) — Vocabulary: Nearest Meaning

5

i. **MORATORIUM** — a. Large tomb **b. Waiting period ✓** c. Security for debt d. Funeral house

ii. **PROLIFIC** — a. Skilful **b. Fruitful ✓** c. Wordy d. Spread out

iii. **BI-PARTISAN** — a. Narrow minded b. Progressive **c. Representing two parties ✓** d. Divided

iv. **UNEQUIVOCAL** — a. Careless **b. Unmistakable ✓** c. Variable d. Incomparable

v. **COVENANT** — a. Prayer b. Debate c. Garden **d. Agreement ✓**

vi. **TENTATIVE** — a. Expedient b. Nominal **c. Provisional ✓** d. Alternative

vii. **DEMOGRAPHIC** — a. Relating to the study of Government b. Demons c. Communications **d. Relating to the study of Population ✓**

viii. **SONAR** — **a. Apparatus to detect / locate objects under water ✓** b. Measure rain c. Anticipate Earthquake d. Something in the air

Q.5 (b) — Word Meanings

5

Brag — to boast proudly and often exaggeratedly about one's own achievements or possessions.

Prodigal — recklessly wasteful or extravagant, especially with money or resources.

Bibliophile — a person who loves and collects books.

Nostalgia — a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period or place in the past.

Burn one's boats — to commit fully to a course of action, deliberately removing any possibility of retreat.

Q.6 (a) — Correct the Sentences

5

i. ~~Please tell me where is your brother?~~

➤ **Please tell me where your brother is.**

ii. ~~Sajjad as well as Saleem were late.~~

➤ **Sajjad, as well as Saleem, was late.**

iii. ~~He is the most cleverest boy in the class.~~

➤ **He is the cleverest boy in the class.**

iv. ~~I have met him last month.~~

➤ **I met him last month.**

v. ~~Your writing is inferior than him.~~

➤ **Your writing is inferior to his.**

Q.6 (b) — Narration: Direct ↔ Indirect Speech

5

i. He said to his friend, "Let me go home now."

➤ He asked his friend to let him go home then.

ii. I will say, "Mother, I will always obey you."

➤ I will tell my mother that I will always obey her.

iii. "Splendid," said father as he read my report.

➤ Father exclaimed with delight that it was splendid, as he read my report.

iv. He said, "Good morning, can you help me?"

➤ He wished me good morning and asked if I could help him.

v. She said, "Brother, why do you tease me?"

➤ She addressed her brother and asked him why he teased her.